

## January 3rd 2024 : MINUTES

**Welcome and introductions:** Mrs J Quarrie - JQ (Executive Principal), Mrs C Duggan - CD (New Principal at Ocean), Mrs R Richardson -RR (Attendance Lead), Mr M West - MW (Behaviour and Engagement lead)

JQ explained the purpose for the community forum meetings - this is outlined on the agenda for reference and can be found on the academy website

The latest parent voice questionnaire was hugely positive and in following up from this, we took the opportunity to discuss any questions that had arisen from this.

### Attendance

Parents asked (through the questionnaire or within the meeting):

What the attendance process was

What the main reasons for absence were

How are parents supported when absence becomes an issue

- Mrs Richardson explained that the government expects students to have at least 95% attendance. When a child's attendance drops below 90% they are considered to be persistently absent. This can happen for a multitude of reasons and an episode of illness could also trigger this. We know illness cannot always be helped, but we implement a fair and robust system so that all families can be supported. Most families find our attendance process helpful and supportive.
- The academy has a year on year attendance level of 95% and above and so the system is working well. Nationally, attendance is a concern (especially after Covid).
- The attendance policy can be found on the academy website and this outlines our approach to supporting absence.
- The reasons for absence are varied - eg. illness, holiday, family reasons, parental needs
- Parents are supported by having 1:1 time with a member of staff to talk through any concerns, short term help with transport, after school clubs, breakfast, Fast Track meetings, contacting outside agencies who may be able to help the parent etc.
- Mrs Richardson shared the following link  
<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2023/05/18/school-attendance-important-risks-missing-day/>

### Extra Curricular offer / Clubs

Parents asked (through the questionnaire or within the meeting):

What is the plan to enhance the extra-curriculum offer (including the arts)

How do students get involved in the club training opportunities

- Mr West explained that at Ocean more than half the school attend a club and we are looking to improve on this. We have now introduced more varied sports through CASA and more staff are running clubs (DT, choir, homework, netball, football, maths champions, Aspire, chess). There is dance and Chinese art also.
- There has been a dip in our club offer since Covid as providers have ceased, but this is a focus and the club offer is increasing. Parents have asked for clubs and musical instrument info to be shared more regularly as although school has offered violin, flutes and toots, ukulele, piano etc, there has not been sufficient uptake for these to continue.
- There are House competitions available for children to join at playtimes and within our PE curriculum which encourage all children to participate.
- Some of our children are Sports Leaders who promote participation and run activities themselves. They also participate in local events as leaders and supporters of school games.
- Parents asked if the positions for sports teams could be through trials rather than observations at playtimes and in PE lessons. Mr West explained the squad system and that this was bringing success (reaching Dorset county levels and numerous school games finals). Mr West did agree that trials can happen and will give a wider opportunity to children. We are looking for a positive attitude, commitment and skill also within these teams.
- Our curriculum is focused on developing cultural capital (the offer can be found on the academy website). This includes offering experiences that are above and beyond the national curriculum. For example we enrich the curriculum with visits and trips, inviting outside speakers, artists and authors into school. We have connections with Southampton and Bournemouth Universities and local secondary schools whereby our children can utilise

secondary spaces and subject specialisms.

- We also welcome parent involvement in our clubs and in school.

#### **Parent Involvement**

- We asked parents about their views on us holding a careers event and those at the meeting were positive. This is something that has been successfully launched by other academies in the Trust. We will advertise this and await parent response to see if this will be viable (dependent on parent availability to come into school and promote their career / employment).
- We will again advertise for parent readers, support.

#### **AOB**

- There was no AOB.

Mrs Duggan will lead the next meeting and will advertise a date very soon.

Thank you to all the parents who attended - for your time and great ideas!